

Greener Hopkinton
Minutes of November 20, 2008 Meeting

The meeting convened at 6:30 in the Community Room of the Hopkinton Town Library. Bethann McCarthy, Susan Covert, Byron Carr, Diane Hastings, Jim O'Brien and Risa Evans were in attendance. Sara Head and Elaine Loft, volunteers, also attended.

Jim O'Brien made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2008 meeting. Susan Covert seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Community Garden Initiative. Elaine Loft volunteered to work with Jim O'Brien to form a sub-committee for this initiative. Jim O'Brien has been doing some research on locations for the gardens. He feels the lot in front of the library may be the best location, due to sunny exposure and access to Town Water. Some discussion ensued that this area may have a shallow depth to ledge. Elaine is going to contact one of the Houstons who may know more about the property. Jim is also going to make some more inquiries. They will also research what other Towns are doing as to size of lot, rent, etc., so as to not re-invent the wheel. They will report back at the next meeting.

Logo and Motto.

The attendees voted on the motto "Building a Sustainable Community". We still don't have a logo. We need to reach out to Jay Spahr to see if she is still interested in working on this, and tell her what we chose as a motto.

E-Newsletter.

Diane Evans reported that there are in excess of 300 people receiving the e-newsletter. We haven't had much feed-back from residents. The Team discussed that we have to make a decision on how to treat for-profit organizations such as businesses. We felt that we should not promote a specific business, but promoting something like shopping locally, or Concord's Green shopping day would be appropriate. We all agreed that we have to be vigilant about crossing this line.

We also discussed that a disclaimer should be added to the newsletter, saying that the Town and GH do not necessarily support any information that is included on the links included on the websites, etc. Bethann will look at what other towns have done, and provide some possible verbage for us to use.

Speaker Series at Library

Tom and Emilie Burack have agreed to be the first presenters at our Speaker Series. Bethann will work with the library and the Buracks to try and set up a date for a January talk. The Buracks intend that their presentation will be a description of how they are greening their lives, with plenty of time for give-and-take with the audience afterwards.

Greener Commercial Development

Byron Carr spoke with the group about future industrial development on Burnham Intervale. Byron shared a map with us, showing the boundaries of the industrial zone and locations of access

roads which are being preliminarily discussed among Town boards. Byron also showed us the critical ecological areas, such as deer runs, stands of trees, etc. The committee discussed looking into what can be done zoning-wise to make sure that some parts of this land are protected in the future. Bethann said she would bring this up at one of the Planning Board meetings.

New Business

Yankee Book Covers

Yankee Book is providing un-used (new condition) book covers to residents to use for wrapping paper, etc. An area will be set up in the library for people to pick up the covers.

Styrofoam Trays at Schools

It was reported that, even though the school has switched to re-useable plastic trays in the Cafeteria, Maple Street school is still using styrofoam trays on a very infrequent basis. Susan will speak to David Lamineau and Steve Chamberlin about what can be done to avoid use of these trays permanently.

There will be no December meeting of the Committee. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 22 in one of the rooms at the library.